

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT
U.S. Appln. No. 09/485,320

REMARKS

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner issues a Restriction Requirement under 35 U.S.C. §§ 121 and 372 to one of the inventions of the following groups:

Group I - Claims 1-12, drawn to first product, i.e., a composition comprising daidzein and a microorganism;

Group II - Claim 13, drawn to a first method, i.e., a method of preservation and treatment of unidentified clinical syndrome or menopausal syndrome by administering a composition comprising a microorganism and daidzein;

Group III - Claims 14 and 28-31, drawn to a second method, i.e., the use of a microorganism to make equol and/or a composition for prevention of treatment of unidentified clinical syndrome or menopausal syndrome;

Group IV - Claims 15-26, drawn to a second product, i.e., a composition comprising equol; and

Group V - Claim 32, drawn to a third product, i.e., a strain of microorganism capable of making equol.

Applicants hereby elect the invention of Group I, i.e., Claims 1-12 without traverse, and hereby cancel non-elected

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Claims 13-32 without prejudice to pursue the same in a
Divisional Application(s).

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the
below listed number on any questions which might arise.

Respectfully submitted,



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